

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-10

ACDA-12 HA-05 MCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /125 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3335

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03563

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MARR, XF, LE, IS, FR

SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF THE UNIFIL MANDATE

1. WE HELD FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH THE UN SECRETARIAT (JONAH) AND AIME ON SEPTEMBER 11 REGARDING THE SYG'S REPORT ON UNIFIL AND THE MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THEY INDICATED THAT THE REPORT IS ON THE SYG'S DESK FOR HIS APPROVAL AND PROBABLY WILL BE CIRCULATED TO COUNCIL MEMBERS ON SEPTEMBER 13. JONAH SAID THAT THE REPORT WILL NOT GO INTO THE DETAILS OF THE LATEST UNIFIL/IDF DISCUSSIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AUGUST 30 WEIZMAN/SILASVUO AGREEMENT. HE PARAPHRASED THE RELEVANT PART OF THE SYG'S REPORT (HE DID NOT READ FROM IT) AS STATING THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS OF FLEXIBILITY, UNIFIL HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO GO BEYOND THE NUMBER OF POSITIONS WHICH
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IT HAS ESTABLISHED IN THE BORDER AREA. JONAH CALLED MISOFF LATER IN THE DAY TO PROVIDE HIM WITH SUBSTANCE OF SEPTEMBER 10 MEETING TRANSMITTED IN JERUSALEM 2513, ADDING HIS OWN VIEW THAT LATEST UNIFIL DEPLOYMENTS WERE INSIGNIFICANT. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND WOULD CHANGE MUCH BETWEEN NOW AND THE CONVENING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

2. JONAOTECT) WAS CRITICAL OF SIILASVOU AND ERSKINE FOR THEIR HANDLING OF THE VARIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS AND THE CHRISTIAN MILITIA. IN PARTICULAR, HE SAID IT WAS A MISTAKE FOR UNIFIL TO HAVE ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HADDAD ON JUNE 13, AN AGREEMENT WHICH THE LATTER IS NOW USING TO UNDERSCORE THE LEGITIMACY OF HIS CONTROL IN THE ENCLAVES, AS WELL AS TO HAVE MADE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. HE ALSO CRITICIZED SIILASVUO'S PROMPT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AUGUST 30 AGREEMENT WHICH ENABLES THE ISRAELIS TO MAKE THE CASE THAT THEY ARE COOPERATING FULLY WITH UNIFIL. HE BELIEVES THAT, IF THERE IS A HEATED DEBATE IN THE COUNCIL, ISRAELIS WILL TRY TO TURN THE SITUATION AROUND AND CLAIM THAT IT IS THE FAULT OF UNIFIL THAT IT HAS NOT CARRIED OUT ITS FULL DEPLOYMENT IN THE BORDER ZONE. AS REGARDS THE TWO ISRAELI CONCERNS -- TO KEEP THE GOOD FENCE OPEN AND TO STAND BY HADDAD AND SHIDIAC ----- JONAH SAID HE BELIEVES THAT WAYS CAN BE FOUND TO MEET THESE OBJECTIVES WHILE FULFILLING THE MANDATE. HE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THIS WOULD REQUIRE SOME MORE FLEXIBILITY ON THE ISRAELI SIDE AND THE ABSENCE OF PUBLICITY.

3. WE WILL BE HOLDING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE WESTERN FIVE ON SEPTEMBER 14 ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECURITY CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNCIL MEETING. THE LEBANESE ARE ENCOURAGING THE NORWEGIANS TO TAKE THE LEAD IN CALLING FOR A MEETING BETWEEN TUENI AND THE TROOP CONTRIBUTORS. THEY ARE CONCERNED BY THE FRENCH PROPOSAL TO LIMIT THE MANDATE TO ONLY THREE MONTHS, HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE NIGERIANS MAY FOLLOW SUIT, AND HOPE TO CONVINCE THE FRENCH AT SUCH A MEETING TO SUPPORT A SIX MONTH EXTENSION.

4. LATEST SPECULATION IS THAT THE COUNCIL WILL MEET ONLY ON SEPTEMBER 18. TUENI TOLD US THAT AT THE ARAB GROUP MEETING LAST WEEK, THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION, BUT NO DECISION, ON HAVING THE COUNCIL ADOPT THE ED RESOLUTION FIRST, WITH STATEMENTS TO FOLLOW. THE ARABS CLEARLY WANT TO HAVE THE MANDATE RENEWED. THIS PROCEDURE WOULD SERVE OUR OBJECTIVES ALSO AS IT WOULD PUT OFF ANY POLEMICS UNTIL AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION.

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